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GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

Committees
Economic Development, Small
Business and Regulatory Reform VC
Families and Human Services VC
Government Operations
Health Policy

The Jacobs Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 12, 2003

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SENATOR JACOBS ON CHANNEL 7 TONIGHT

Because of a loophole in Michigan law, a convicted rapist was allowed to adopt three children after he was released from prison. Years later, as the children developed physically, the offender began making inappropriate sexual advances which gradually escalated to intercourse. The assaults on the adoptive children lasted for three years. Currently, the offender is in Oakland County Jail awaiting charges on multiple sex offenses.

"It disturbs me that this man, a convicted sex-offender, was allowed to adopt the children in the first place," said Senator Jacobs.

Michigan law does not prohibit sex offenders whose victims were legal adults from adopting children. "The offender was allowed to adopt children because his first rape victim was over the age of eighteen," explained Jacobs. "I'm working on legislation to close that loophole as soon as possible."

For the full story, please tune into WXYZ Channel 7 tonight and watch Guy Gordon's 11:00 news feature.

SENATOR JACOBS VOTES TO SUPPORT MEDC

In an effort to preserve adequate levels of funding for the state's economic growth catalyst, last week Senate Democrats opposed Republican measures to gut the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Instead of supporting amendments offered by Democrats that would allow the MEDC to continue its mission of generating business investment and expansion opportunities across Michigan, Republicans decided to cut the organization's funding by more than \$4 million.

"Now is the time we should be focusing effort on Michigan's future business growth and economic development," said Senator Jacobs. "The MEDC has been recognized countless times over the years for its ability to create jobs and help businesses expand in our state. Today, MEDC falls victim to political gamesmanship. That's a shame."

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COMING UP THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE

Small Group Market Reform Package Hits the Floor

Last week, the Senate Health Policy Committee reported the legislative package that reforms Michigan's small group health insurance market. The package is now on the Senate floor.

Probable Floor Vote on Senate Bill 50

SB 50, sponsored by Senator Jacobs, would require health clubs to maintain an emergency plan, have available an automated external defibrillator, and have at least one CPR certified employee on duty during public hours. The bill was reported out of committee two weeks ago and is expected to receive consideration on the Senate floor Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

More Jacobs Legislation in Committee this Week:

SB 99, a bill to establish an organ donor leave time program for the State of Michigan.

Senate Committee Commerce & Labor

Clerk Phone Number 373-2429

Location Room 100, Farnum Building

Date Tuesday, 5/13/2003

Time 3:00 PM

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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